

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 01145 182143Z

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3199

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1145

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UN, UR, US, ABUD

SUBJ: UN PROGRAM BUDGET: U.S./SOVIET CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 080322; (B) USUN 873; (C) USUN 454

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET DEPUTY PERM REP FOKINE PRESSED USUN FURTHER ON THE NEED FOR US/USSR CONSULTATIONS, ADDING THAT THEY RECENTLY HAD MADE A DEMARCHE TO SYG WALDHEIM ON THIS SUBJECT. WHILE WE SEE NO OVERRIDING REASON TO OBJECT TO SUCH CONSULTATIONS, WE SEE NO REAL ADVANTAGE TO THE US. TIMING, PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS, AND ADEQUATE ADVANCE PREPARATION ARE FACTORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE AGREEING TO SUCH CONSULTATIONS. END SUMMARY

2. FOLLOWING ON PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK AND VASEV'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES REPORTED REFTELS A AND B, SOVIET DEPUTY PERM REP FOKINE CALLED MISOFF APRIL 13. FOKINE SAID HE WAS MAKING CALL ON INSTRUCTIONS OF AMBASSADOR TROYANOVSKY TO ADVISE US THAT TROYANOVSKY RECENTLY MAD MADE A DEMARCHE TO SYG WALDHEIM TO EXPRESS SERIOUS SOVIET CONCERN OVER CONTINUED EXPANSION OF UN BUDGET. THIS CONCERN WAS HIGHLIGHTED
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01145 182143Z

BY REPORTS THAT UN PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 1978/79 BIENNIUM TO BE PRESENTED SHORTLY BY WALDHEIM WILL SHOW AN ABSOLUTE DOLLAR GROWTH IN EXCESS OF 20 PERCENT. FOKINE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE USSR AND HIS DELEGATION INTENDED IN THE FUTURE TO CONTINUE TO PRESS WALDHEIM TO CUT BACK ON HIS BUDGET REQUEST, A POINT WHICH WAS MADE TO WALDHEIM BY TROYANOVSKY.

3. A STRONG APPEAL WAS THEN MADE BY FOKINE -- ASSERTING AGAIN THAT HE WAS DOING SO ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM TROYANOVSKY -- FOR THE USG TO TAKE DEFINITIVE ACTION ALONG LINES SUGGESTED BY SOVIETS PREVIOUSLY AS REPORTED REFTELS A AND C. FOKINE ASKED IF USG COULD NOT AGREE TO COORDINATED US/SOVIET EXPRESSIONS OF SERIOUS CONCERN OVER UN PROGRAM BUDGET, COULD WE AGREE TO MAKING SEPARATE EXPRESSIONS, BOTH BEFORE CONVENING OF 32ND UNGA AND DURING FIFTH COMMITTEE? CONCLUDING, FOKINE SAID SOVIETS BELIEVE THAT FURTHER COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO DELEGATIONS ON THIS QUESTION WAS POSSIBLE AND QUESTION DESERVES FURTHER STUDY (LATTER AN APPARENT ALLUSION TO US (AND OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS) LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC REPLY TO EARLIER SOVIET INITIATIVE).

4. DRAWING ON REFTELS A AND B, MISOFF REPLIED TO FOKINE BY EMPHASIZING USG WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE ON UN PROGRAM BUDGET MATTERS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, ADDING THAT IN GENERAL WE SHARED SOVIET CONCERN OVER THE NEED FOR PROGRAM BUDGET RESTRAINT IN THE UN. FOKINE ASKED, AND MISOFF AGREED, TO CONVEY TO THE DEPARTMENT SUBSTANCE OF FORMER'S CALL.

5. COMMENT: REGARDING PARAS 6 AND 7 OF REFTEL A, MISSION SEES NO OVERRIDING REASON FOR NOT AGREEDING TO SOVIET SUGGESTION FOR CONSULTATIONS ON NEW YORK ON UN PROGRAM BUDGET PRIOR TO CONVENING OF 32ND UNGA -- NEITHER DO WE SEE ANY IMMEDIATE ADVANTAGE TO THE US IN SUCH CONSULTATIONS. WE WOULD PREFER, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 01145 182143Z

HOWEVER, THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS BE HELD WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF OVERALL US/SOVIET PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS AND NOT REPEAT NOT AS A SEPARATE EFFORT. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, UN PROGRAM BUDGET NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT WILL FIRST APPEAR EN TOTO IN ACABQ -- WHERE AMERICAN AND SOVIET MEMBERS MAINTAIN A CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE -- BIT-BY-BIT DURING MAY/JULY WITH TOTAL PACKAGE EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED EARLY AUGUST. ANY MORE FORMALIZED US/USSR DISCUSSIONS PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF ACABQ REVIEW MID-JULY WOULD NOT, IN OUR OPINION, SERVE ANY REAL PURPOSE.

6. IF WE ARE TO AGREE WITH THE SOVIETS TO CONSULTATIONS, MISSION STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT WE NOT DO SO UNTIL WE HAVE FIRST CONSULTED OUR FRIENDS -- IN PARTICULAR THE FOUR OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS (U.K., FRANCE, FRG AND JAPAN). FURTHERMORE, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ANSWER IN SPADES SOVIET ASSERTIONS THAT THEY ARE THE ONLY TRUE GUARDIANS OF THE UN TREASURY, AND THAT THEY CAN SHOW US, IF ONLY WE WILL FOLLOW, HOW TO PRACTICE ECONOMY IN THE UNITED

NATIONS AS A DESIRABLE END OBJECTIVE. END COMMENT.
LEONARD

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